A short State of our Condition, with Relation to the present PARLIAMENT.

IT is too sad a Subject to admit of Jests, otherwise a Man might say that we may defy all the Plots of the *Jacobites* and the Machinations of *Republicans*, since there is so good an Understanding between the *King* and his *People*, since the People have chosen him a *Parliament*, of which he thinks so many of the *Members* are fit to be employed by him, as well as entrusted by them. A Man might Droll on, but he can have no *English* Heart, nor thinking Head, who can sport himself with our Calamities. There cannot sure be any Circumstance which can make *England* more impregnable, more glorious and happy, than when the *King* and *Parliament* jointly agree in *National* Designs. But neither can there be any Juncture more fatal than when an *House* of *Commons* seem as much in a *separate* Interest from that of their Country, as *Parasites* in these latter *Reigns* have perswaded our *Kings* to be. Such an *House* of *Commons* will make *Slavery* Authentick, will bubble us out of all Sense of *Liberty*. What with talking of the Church and the Monarchy at one time, and the *French* and *Popery* at another, they will first cheat themselves, and then delude as well as betray the Nation. They will most easily betray the Nation, because we are not apt now to find fault with any thing that has a *Parliamentary* Sanction. That two hundred thousand Pounds a Year bestowed upon the Parliament, has already drawn out of the Subjects Pockets more Millions than all our Kings since the Conquest have ever had from this Nation; and that without any rude Complaint, is a Proof, that if a King can manage well Mr. *Guy*'s Office, he may without much ado set up for Absolute. VENALIS EST ANGLIA, for VENALE EST PARLIAMENTUM. Heretofore indeed it was not necessary only that a *Parliament* should give, but that they should give reasonably; as *Flammock*'s Rebellion, and others in King *Henry* the Seventh's Reign witness, and yet I believe our Rolls will not furnish us with many Sessions wherein Money was given, and no one *Country* Bill granted. But our Ancestors were wise enough to instruct their Members, and our Constitution so regular, that we had frequent Elections. But when think you shall we have a new Election now, since the King has about six score Members, that I can reckon, who are in Places, and who are thereby so entirely at his Devotion; that altho they have mortal Fewds when out of the House, tho' they are violently of opposite Parties in their Notions of Government, yet they vote as *lumpingly* as the *Lawn Sleeves*, never divide when the Interest of the Family (as they call it) is concern'd, that is to say, when any Court-Project is on foot. The House is so Officer'd, that by those that have Places and Pensions, together with their

Sons, Brothers, and Kinſmen, and thoſe who are fed with the Hopes of Preferment, and the too great Influence theſe have upon ſome honeſt miſtaken Country-Gentlemen, (who are poſſibly over-frighted with the *French*) the King can baffle any *Bill*, quaſh all Grievances, ſtifle Accompts, and ratify the *Articles* of *Limerick*. I call them miſtaken Country-Gentlemen, who can be perſwaded that an honeſt Bill can be at any time out of Seaſon. I confeſs they muſt adore Kings more than I do, who when their own Management has brought them into Difficulties and Streights, don't love to make good Uſe of their Humiliations. I would truſt an Elected King a great way, if I ſaw he underſtood Election to be his Title, if our Generoſity would engage him to Reformation: but when I ſee he knows neither his own nor our Intereſt, employs many of thoſe who have been our Enemies all along, and were his when the Debate of the Crown was on foot; when I ſee him hate and nickname as *Commonwealths*-men thoſe whoſe Principles made them the Authors of his Greatneſs, and thoſe that would have him do the Buſineſs for which he came, for which both he and we ſaid he came: when I ſee him ſometimes ſolliciting in Perſon in the *Houſe* of *Lords*, at others by my Lord *Portland*, beſides what he does by all his under-Officers, when I hear he ſends Commands to ſome Lords, and Bribes to others, and turns out of his Place the gallant Lord *Bellamount*, meerly for giving his Vote in the Houſe of Commons according to his Conſcience, and thereby intends to terrify others; when I find the Money the Nation gives to defend our Liberties from Forreigners abroad, is like to undermine them at home: In a Word, when I ſee neither the one nor the other Houſe can withſtand the Power of Gold; I ſay when I perceive all this, it is time to give Warning, it is time to look about us. I once thought to have affixed to this Paper a Liſt of thoſe that are in Office, which if I had, it would not only have ſhewn how many Members are bought off, but would have pointed out many amongſt the Number of Favourites and Pentioners, who we expected ſhould rather have been puniſhed. Had we intended to have juſtified what we have done to after-times: Had any thing but perſonal Grandeur been the real Intention of him, who we intended ſhould have been, and valued himſelf moſt upon being our Deliverer; theſe Men muſt have been marked down as Betrayers of their Country, who are now made the chief Supporters of his Throne. I thought we called over the *Prince of Orange* to get or give us all the Laws we wanted; to have made the Elections of Parliament ſecure and frequent, Trials impartial, the *Militia* our ſtanding Force, and the Navy our Strength. I thought we had call'd him over to call Miniſters to an Account, and to have put it out of their Power impunibly to abuſe us hereafter. If any Spirit of Liberty remains, if we are not deſtined to Deſtruction, ſure the Nation will take ſome way to let the King and both Houſes know that they expect they ſhould not only provide for a Campaign in *Flanders*, but (if we ſhould yet have our wiſhed for Succeſs) for our Security even againſt

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our own Victories, and ſuch Laws as may make it worth while at this time to defend our Country; I ſay worth while to defend it; for if we are to be Slaves, it's no matter to whom we are ſo. I would not embarraſs the Government, but I would have thoſe that are in it underſtand that it is for our Good, and not to gratify their own Ambition, that they are put into thoſe Poſts.

It was the Cuſtom formerly for the People to pay their Members, and thoſe Members were truſted by the People to keep the Ballance between their Liberties and the King's Prerogative. But ſince they are retained by him with ſuch over-grown Fees (ſuch Places and Preferments) to be Council on his ſide, how can the People hope they will be juſt in their Arbitration? But after all I would not be thought to inſinuate, that all that are in Places give up the Intereſt of *England:* There are ſome, and thoſe in great Places too, of whom I can't allow my ſelf to have one hard Thought, tho' there are others of whom the World had a very good Opinion, who ſince they have had Preferment, have taken care to convince us, that we were miſtaken in their Characters. Leſt the Good ſhould not be diſtinguiſhed from the Bad, I forbear making a Liſt, which moſt Members, if they pleaſe, can make for themſelves and their Neighbours, and more exactly than I can do it; and I think the beſt ought to ſuſpect and examine their own Conſciences, whether their Imployments don't byaſs their Votes. If Men are to make Fortunes by being of our Senate-Houſe, we had better our ſelves pay the Diſburſements of thoſe we ſend, we had better our ſelves allow them plentiful Sallaries for ſitting there, each particular County would ſave by it in the publick Aſſeſſments, and find their Account in it, whilſt they preſerve their Members from the Temptation of being hired out of their Intereſt, and conſequently get good Laws for what they give. We can ſcarce pay too much for good Laws; and if we have not ſome *that we have not yet*, we ſhall not when the War is over (let it end which way it will) be able to call what we have our own. If the Members of Parliament are to overlook all the Ill-husbandry of the Government, that they may ſhare in the Profuſeneſs and Bribery of it; if our Rights are ſet to Sale by ſome, and neglected by others, when the very Being of the Government depends upon our being pleaſed, what Amendment, what Confirmation ſhall we have of our Conſtitution when all our Dangers are over? This is a Thought that deſerves our moſt ſerious Reflections. In the late times the City of *London* often petitioned for paſſing of Laws; will they always lend Money now, and never expect a thorow Alteration of the Miniſtry, and Securities for the future againſt Court-Projecters? In King *James* the Firſt's time there were certain Sparks that undertook for Parliaments, they were called Undertakers; and there is a certain Secret that has ſtole out of our *Cabinet*, that one there immediately upon the King's refuſing the *Triennial Bill laſt Seſſions*, undertook that it ſhould be thrown out the next time they ſat, with as much Scorn and Contempt as was

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the *Judges Bill.* It is time to have *Annual Parliaments* inſtead of *Triennial*, ſince *Privy Counſellors* and *Lords of the Treaſury* (both which Stations this Perſon enjoys) can ſo perfectly feel the Pulſe of a Parliament, during an Interval. I could name a certain Gentleman who exactly reſembles *Harry Guy*, that the laſt Seſſions when the Houſe was a little out of Humor, diſpoſed of no leſs than *ſixteen thouſand Pounds* in three Days time, for *ſecret Service.* Who are in Places we may find out, but God knows who have Penſions, yet every Man that made the leaſt Obſervation can remember that ſome who opened loudly at the Beginning of the laſt Seſſions, who came up as eager as is poſſible for Reformation, had their Mouths ſoon ſtopped with *Huſh-money.* It has been of ſome time whiſpered, that if this will not at firſt pre-ingage to do what will be exacted at their Hands, we ſhall have a new Parliament. I can't tell whether a new Parliament will not be practiſed upon by the *Carmarthen Art*; however it is our laſt and beſt Remedy; for if this continues, *God have Mercy upon poor England*; for hitherto we have been, and we are like ſtill, for ought I ſee, to be re-paid for all our Expence of Blood and Treaſure, with the *meer Smoak* that *Boccaline* mentions in his Advertiſement from *Parnaſſus*, whereby the Enemies of the Government have but too great Advantage given them to ridicule us for our fooliſh Credulity.

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